

# **AERONET's evolution: from hatchlings to DRAGONS**

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The AERONET network origins arose in the 1980s and 1990s as a need by the Earth science community to use remotely sensed data from Landsat and AVHRR to remove atmospheric effects to better understand the Earth's surface vegetation patterns and processes. More specifically it hatched because of the confluence of technology, wide ranging scientific expertise, and good timing combined with a philosophy of open and free collaboration with the domestic and international communities. This talk traces the early development and growth of the program to the present day DRAGON activities highlighting some of the significant research and operational milestones. I will discuss the recent research directions of AERONET within the context of the remote sensing communities and modeling communities needs and will gaze together into the near future of the program.

Mode of presentation: Invited